USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

Iraq: Crop Progress Report

March 07, 2008 MY 2008/09

Week 1 Summary

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter wheat and barley crop is forecasted to be lower than the previous year, particularly in the northern rainfed governorates due to poor precipitation during planting and establishment of winter grains. Slight decreases are also expected in the central and southern governorates.

2. The month of February experienced fair precipitation events to help boost soil moisture, but cumulative precipitation remains well below normal (Figure 1).

3. MODIS NDVI from January to February 2008 showed that most of the abundant cropland is located in the irrigated regions of central and southern Iraq (Figure 2). A multi-temporal change analysis was conducted to compare NDVI from MY 2008/09 to MY 2007/08. Compared to the previous year, significant decreases in cropland abundance are located primarily in the northern rainfed governorates. Most of the irrigated governorates have remained persistent, except for a large area of decrease in the Wasit province (Figure 3).

   A multi-temporal change analysis comparing NDVI from MY 2008/09 to the 7 year average showed significant decreases in cropland abundance in the northern rainfed governorates and the irrigated region of At Ta'min province. The southern irrigated governorates have remained persistent with proportionate increases and decreases. However, Wasit and Diyala provinces showed concentrated areas of significant decrease compared to the 7year average (Figure 4).

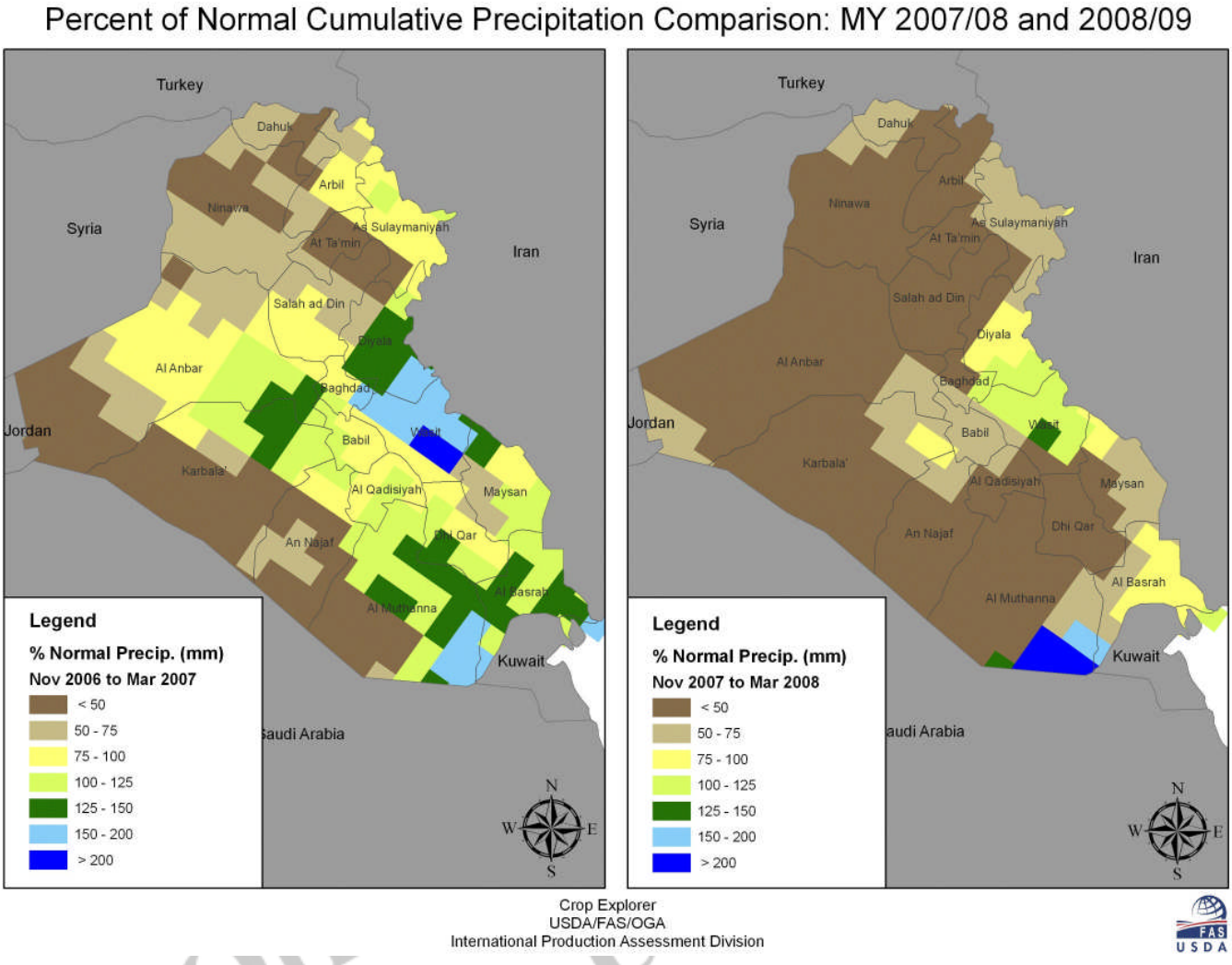

Figure 1: Percent of normal cumulative precipitation comparison: MY 2007/08 and MY 2008/09

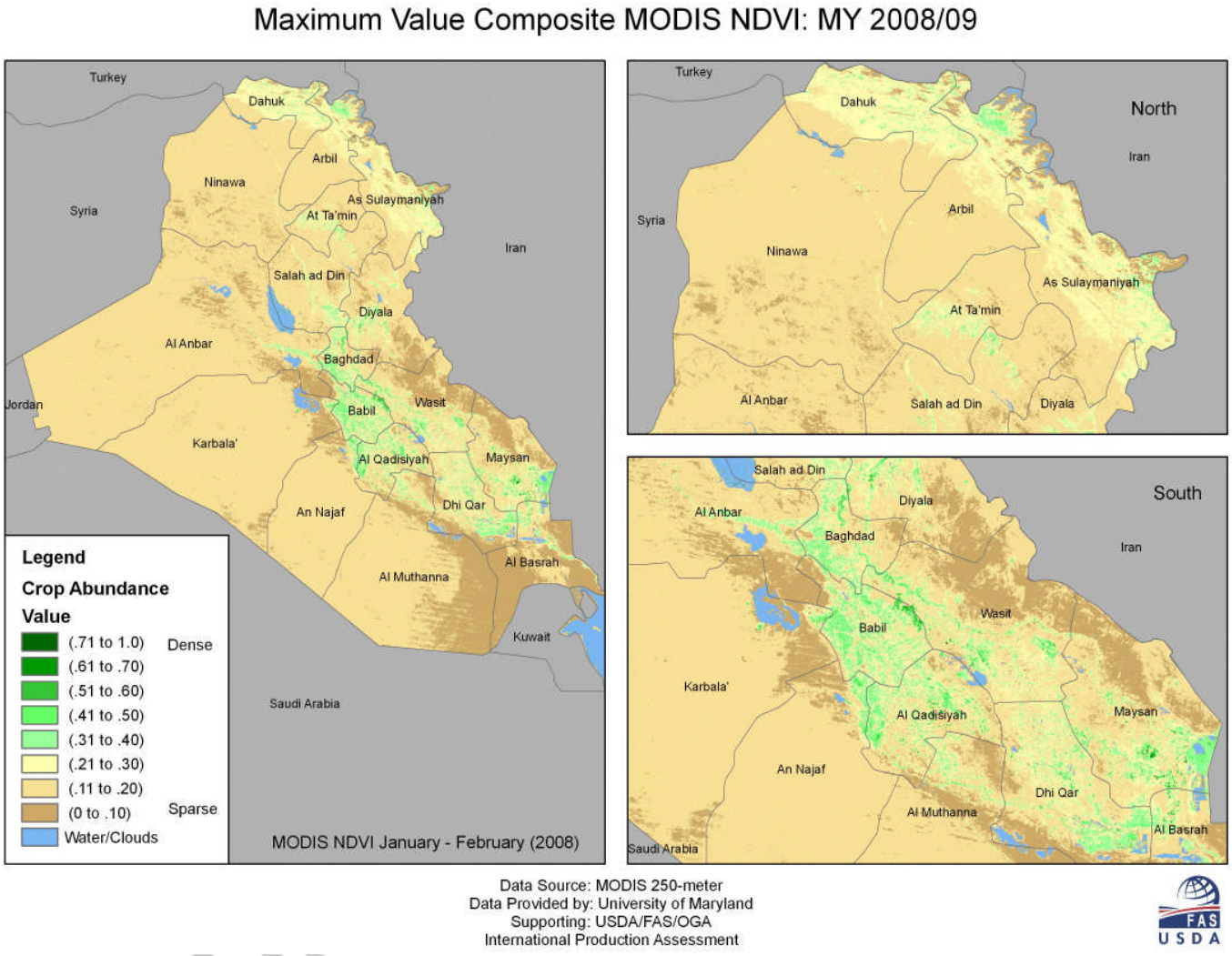

Figure 2: MODIS 250-meter maximum value NDVI composite representing cropland abundance and health.

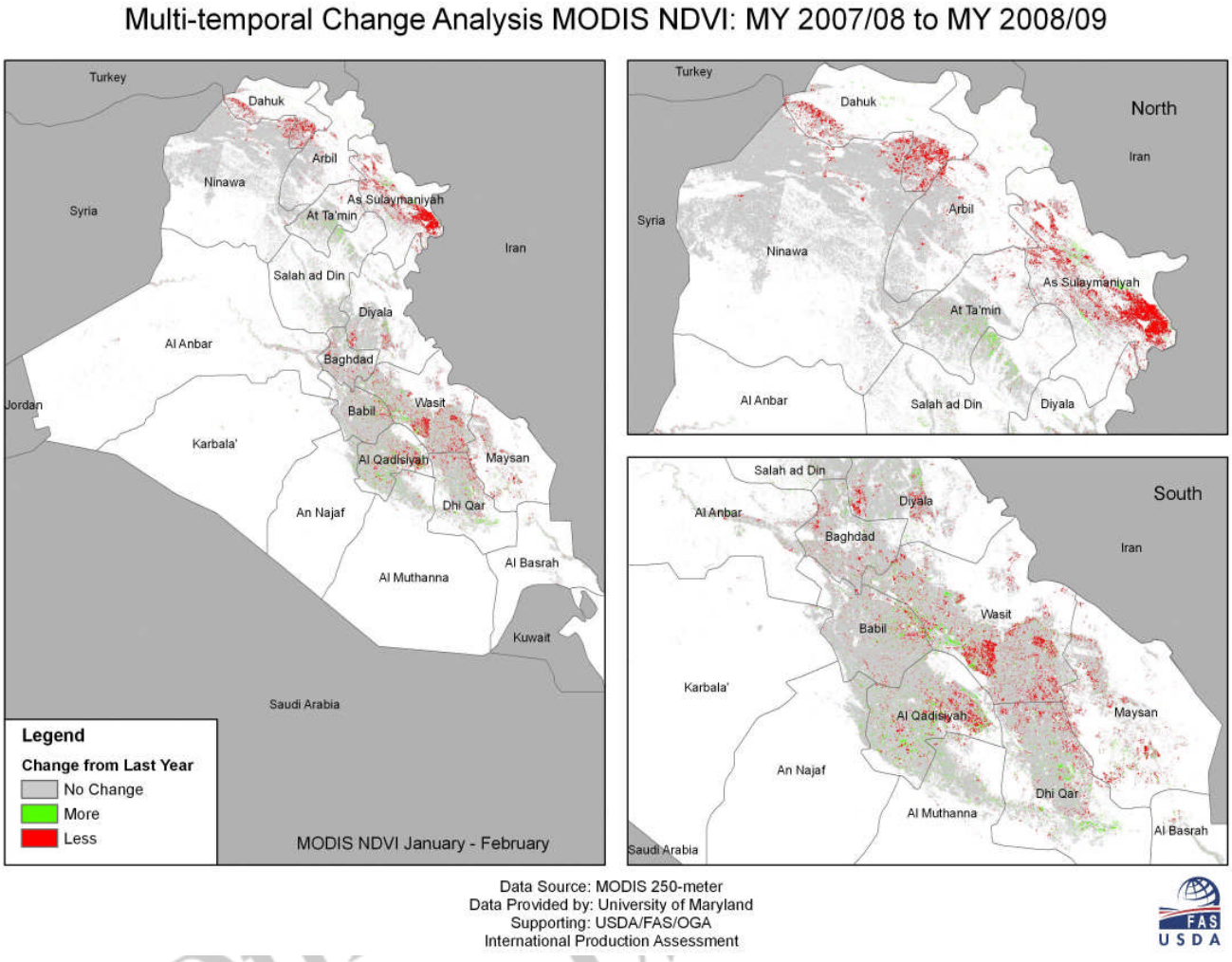

Figure 3: Change analysis comparing cropland abundance between MY 2008/09 and last year.

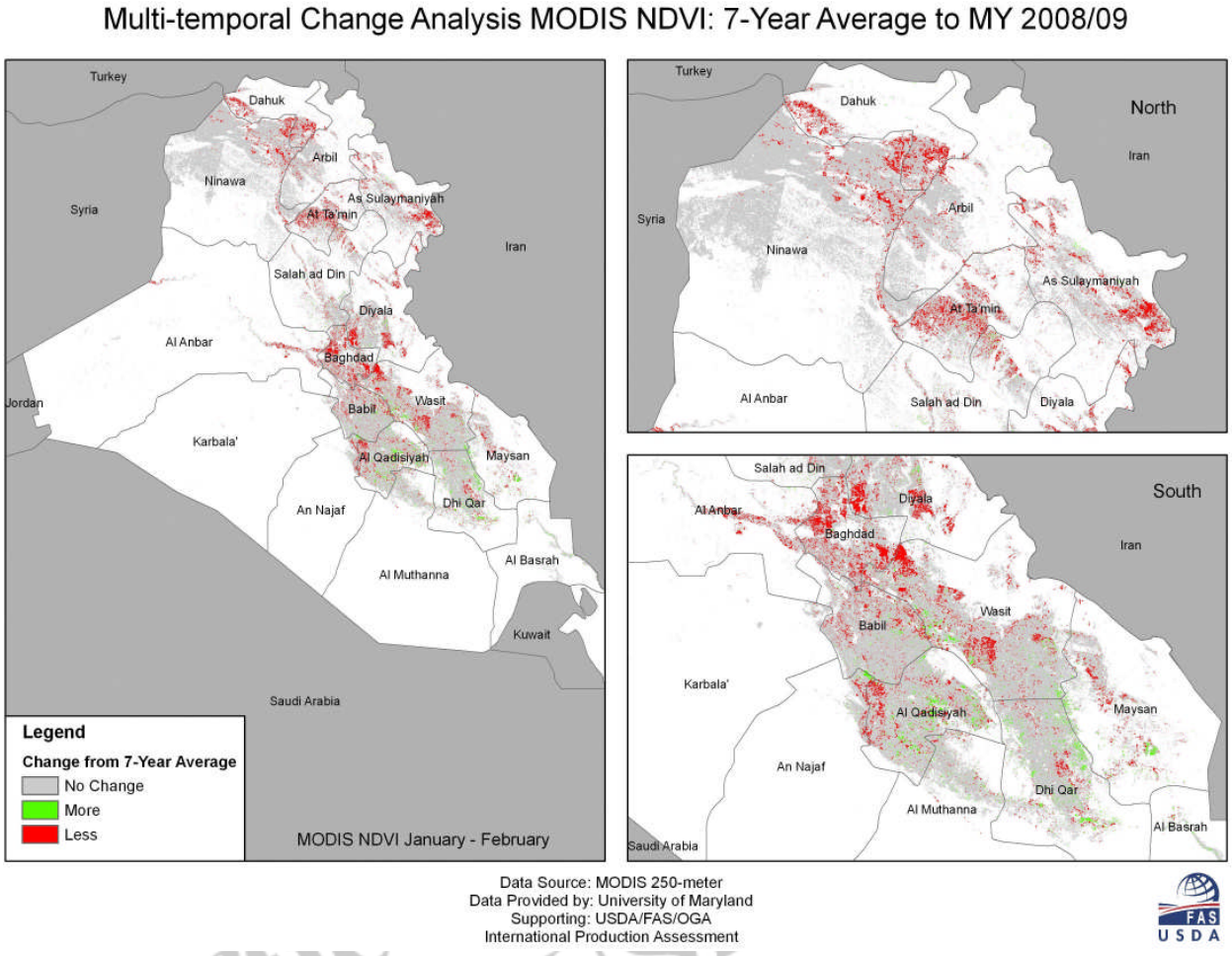

Figure 4: Change analysis comparing cropland abundance between MY 2008/09 and the 7-year average.